

MEMBER'S QUERIES

Perfin 'PB' from Stephen Steere

One of the identities for P0410.01M, PB, is the Petroleum Board, an 'Official' perfin. However the Sloper records show it as *The Petroleum Board Ltd*, at Esso House, Milton Hill, Abingdon, Berks. How can a Limited company be an 'official'?

Ed:- Additional Information

In *G.B.OFFICIAL PERFINS* by Edwards & Lucas, Page 30, we read the following:-

"The Petroleum Board was established in May 1940 as part of the Board of Trade, and was absorbed into the Ministry of Power in June, 1942. Its perfin has been noted on the 1d, 1½d, 2d and 2½d light colour issues of George VI (SG 485 et seq.) which were in use during this period. The only recorded identifiable postmarks are "NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE" and "MANCHESTER".

A number of other firms use the same initials and the perfins used by Paddington Borough Council and the Borough and County of Poole are almost identical to those of the Petroleum Board.

Apart from dates of usage, only examples on identifiable entires can be easily identified. As a guide, the measurement between the stem of the 'P' and the 'B' is 6mm.

Although the Board was absorbed into the Ministry of Power in 1942, it maintained some separate existence and the authors have seen receipts from the Board dated 4/7/47 and 27/11/45 bearing 2d light orange (SG 488) with the Board's perfin. Both originated from Buckingham."

By coincidence, 14 receipts from the Petroleum Board are to be sold through the Society on behalf of Bill Hanson's widow. These are all from the same source (Yellow Oak Farm, Ruabon), all have perfin on 2d light orange, all from Wrexham Depot and dates range from 10/3/43 to 17/3/48. There are also 28 receipts with perfin SM/BP (S4810.01M) on Shell-Mex & B.P. Ltd Invoices, same farm, Ruabon or Stanlow Depot, 2d light orange from 18/1/49 to 28/4/51, 2d brown from 22/6/51 to 25/8/53.